

44. (New) The composition of claim 43 further comprising alcohol.

45. (New) The composition of claim 43 wherein the composition further comprises an inorganic filler.

46. (New) The composition of claim 45 wherein the inorganic filler is selected from the group consisting of high surface area alumina and high surface area silica.

47. (New) The composition of claim 43 wherein the polyethylene oxide having a molecular weight from about 100 kd to about 5,000 kd.

48. (New) The composition of claim 43 wherein the ionically conductive polymeric composition further comprises plasticizer salts.

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Page 38, please replace the "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE", and insert therefore the following:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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An ionically conductive polymeric composition is disclosed. The composition is especially useful for coating an implantable hot can defibrillator electrode. The polymeric composition, for example, polyethylene oxide containing NaCl or a similar ionic medium, can be used to coat and fill the pores of a high surface area electrode to provide a continuous ionic network from the can to the adjacent body tissue. The conductive polymeric composition is biocompatible, chemically and mechanically stable and does not dissolve or leach out over the useful lifetime of the defibrillator. A hot can defibrillator employing the polymeric coating avoids development of high polarization at the can/tissue interface and maintains a more uniform defibrillation threshold than conventional implantable defibrillators, thus increasing the feasibility of pectoral implantation, particularly in a "dry pocket" environment.--